

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Douglas Rickson fonds (RBSC-ARC-1866)

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University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
1961 East Mall
Vancouver
British Columbia
V6T 1Z1
Telephone: 604-822-2521
Fax: 604-822-9587
[Email: rare.books@ubc.ca](mailto:rare.books@ubc.ca)
<http://rbsc.library.ubc.ca/>
<https://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/douglas-rickson-fonds>

Douglas Rickson fonds

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Summary information

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|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Repository: | University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections |
| Title: | Douglas Rickson fonds |
| Reference code: | RBSC-ARC-1866 |
| Date: | 1955-1996 (date of creation) |
| Physical description: | 37 cm of textual records, 8 photographs, and 1 videocassette |
| Language: | English |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | The fonds was processed, arranged, and described by Gabriella J. Cigarroa in Summer 2024. |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Douglas Edward Rickson, R.P.F. (1933-2022) was highly involved in forestry and associated environmental issues throughout his life. He received a Bachelor of Forestry (BSF) from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Forestry (MF) degree from the University of California, Berkeley. While an undergraduate student at the University of British Columbia in 1954 and 1955, Rickson participated in timber cruises. He also received several forestry awards in 1955, including the Alaska Pine Company Limited Scholarship in Forestry and the Plimsoll Club Scholarship in Forestry, Forest Business Administration.

After serving for seven years with the British Columbia Forest Service, during which he likely became a Registered Professional Forester (R.P.F.), Rickson's career at Canfor began on May 1, 1964. Starting as a forester, he became Chief Forester in 1972 then Vice-President and Chief Forester in the early 1990s of Canadian Forest Products Ltd. Rickson was then promoted to Vice-President and Chief Forester of Canfor Corporation, serving as an Officer of the Corporation and a member of Canfor's President's Committee. He retired in 1995. In his 31 years at Canfor, Rickson contributed significantly to Canfor's forest practices, developing forest management programs, forest education programs, and forest practices performance review programs.

In the late 1990s, Rickson and his wife, Irene Suyin Lee, became students of Dzongsar Khentse Rinpoche, a Rimé Tibetan Buddhist scholar and founder of the Khyentse Foundation. In 2004 and 2006, Rickson and his wife Irene volunteered at a Buddhist monastery, Chador Lhakhang, in the Kingdom of Bhutan. They taught conversational English, basic computer skills, and environmental awareness to 60-80 monks ranging in age from 7 to 25 years old.

Rickson was an active member of many forestry professional associations and related groups from his student days to post-retirement. He was a long-time member of the Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters, the Canadian Institute of Forestry, and the Society of American Foresters. He also served as Director of the British Columbia Forestry Association, Trustee of the Western Forestry and

Conservation Association, member of the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association, and member of the Vancouver Natural History Society. Additionally, Rickson considered himself an active outdoorsman, with interests including fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and cross-country skiing.

Scope and content

Fonds documents Douglas Rickson's work as a forester, particularly as Chief Forester then Vice-President and Chief Forester at both Canadian Forest Products and Canfor from the mid-1970s to mid-1990s. Material relates to Rickson's various forestry responsibilities with respect to Canfor's forest management policies and standards, tenure administration, government relations, representing Canfor on various forestry committees, forest education programs, internal forest practice performance reviews, and presentations to Canfor's major customers in North America and overseas. The fonds also includes photographs from Rickson's time as a student timber cruiser in 1954 or 1955 at Hemmingsen Creek. Fonds consists of memoranda, reports, presentation scripts, briefs, and other material created as part of Rickson's career at Canfor, as well as photographs from Rickson's time as a student timber cruiser. Fonds is arranged into three series: Photographs; DER correspondence; and Reports and presentations.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents of fonds

Immediate source of acquisition

Fonds was donated to UBC RBSC by Douglas Rickson in 2013.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
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Access points

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Business and commerce (subject)
- Environment (subject)
- Forestry (subject)
- Forests (subject)

- British Columbia (place)

Series descriptions

Photographs

Date: [ca. 1955] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series documents Rickson's job as a student timber cruiser ca. 1955 at Hemmingsen Creek. It includes photographs of the cruising camp and crew members.

Physical description: 8 photographs

Arrangement:

Archivist maintained previous order.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08 | File - [Hemminsen Creek photographs] | 1955 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08-PH-01 | Item - Cruising Camp | [ca. 1955] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08-PH-02 | Item - Doug Rickson with cook's cat | [ca. 1955] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08-PH-03 | Item - Camp Toilet. Well-Known Forester using the Johnston Bar. | [ca. 1955] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08-PH-04 | Item - Steelhead From Hemmingson Cr. V.I [Hemmingsen Creek, Vancouver Island] | [ca. 1955] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08-PH-05 | Item - Al Bush & Doug Rickson | [ca. 1955] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08-PH-06 | Item - Doug Rickson with Cook's cat, The Cook (Mac) & Pat Jackson, Hemmingson Cr. [Hemmingsen Creek, Vancouver Island] | [ca. 1955] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08-PH-07 | Item - Hemmingson Creek Crew, Summer 1955 [Hemmingsen Creek] | [ca. 1955] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-PH-01 to 08-PH-08 | Item - Cruise Camp Cabin Under Construction, Hemmingson Cr. [Hemmingsen Creek, Vancouver Island] | [ca. 1955] | | |

DER correspondence

Date: 1961, 1973-1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series documents Canfor internal communications and information exchange within senior management. From the mid-1970s, and in an official capacity starting in 1987, Rickson served as a designated "Information Funnel" to circulate important information from senior management to the Operating Group then CEO's Committee. Formed in 1984 to replace the Operating Group, the CEO's Committee was a primarily issue-oriented committee which shaped policies and strategic directions, monitored finances, reviewed management plans, and approved specific company problems and opportunities. Documents collected by Rickson as part of what became known as "DER correspondence files" (i.e., "Douglas E. Rickson correspondence files") relate to Canfor's forest management policies and practices, staff administration, government relations, forest education programs, potential land purchases, and similar topics. The series consists of memoranda, proposals, reports, questionnaires, and other material created from the mid-1970s to mid-1990s and designated part of the "DER correspondence files."

Physical description: 22.5 cm of textual records

Arrangement:

Archivist maintained previous order.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-01 | File - 1976-81 [1973-1981] | [copied after 1973? (originally created 1932)], 1973-1981 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-02 | File - 1982-83 (folder 1 of 2) [1980-1983] | 1977-1983, predominant 1981-1983 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-03 | File - 1982-83 (folder 2 of 2) [1980-1983] | 1977-1983, predominant 1981-1983 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-04 | File - 1984 [1983-1984] | 1983-1984 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-05 | File - 1985 | 1985 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-06 | File - 1986 | 1986 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-07 | File - 1987 (folder 1 of 2) | 1986-1987, predominant 1987 | | |

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-08 | File - 1987 (folder 2 of 2) | 1986-1987, predominant 1987 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-09 | File - 1988 (folder 1 of 2) | 1985-1988, predominant 1988 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-10 | File - 1988 (folder 2 of 2) | 1985-1988, predominant 1988 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-11 | File - 1989 | 1987-1989, predominant 1989 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-12 | File - 1990 | 1989-1990, predominant 1990 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-13 | File - 1991 (folder 1 of 2) | 1990-1991, predominant 1991 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-01-14 | File - 1991 (folder 2 of 2) | 1990-1991, predominant 1991 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-01 | File - 1992 | 1991-1992, predominant 1992 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-02 | File - 1993 | 1993-1994, predominant 1993 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-03 | File - 1994 | 1994-1995, predominant 1994 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-04 | File - Personal, 1995+ | 1961, 1972-1996 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-05 | File - [We're celebrating our 50th Anniversary! 1938-1988 : booklet]Canfor | [1988?] |

Reports and presentations

Date: 1968-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of assorted reports, briefs, and presentations by Rickson. It documents Rickson's: research for Canfor management regarding potential purchases; responses to and campaigns for particular government legislation regarding forestry; and forestry education at various conferences, association meetings, and other events. The series includes presentation scripts, reports, briefs, memoranda, and other material produced as part of these activities.

Physical description: 14.5 cm of textual records and 1 videocassette

Arrangement:

Series arrived with no apparent previous order. Archivist organized materials into file based on subject, then arranged files according to format (i.e., reports, submissions and associated materials, and presentations) and chronology.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-06 | File - Pro-Can annual report, 1967-1968 | 1968 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-07 | File - Timber Investigation, Eastern Region, Evans Products Company Limited [report and memoranda] | 1976 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-08 | File - Crows Nest Forest Products Limited Investigation: March 4, 1980 [report and other material] | 1980 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-09 | File - Preliminary Report on Great West Timber LimitedD. E. Rickson | 25 Feb. 1980 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-10 | File - Great West Timber [report and other material] | 1981 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-11 | File - Western Red Cedar: A Comparison of Log Prices in Western Washington with Log Prices in Coastal British Columbia [report] | 1983 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-12 | File - Timber Investigation: Scott Paper Company, Everett, Washington [reports and memorandum] | 1988-1989 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-13 | File - [Sweden and Finland forestry legislation and operations : memoranda and meeting notes] | 1994 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-14 | File - Submission to the Royal Commission on Forest Resources by Canadian Forest Products Ltd. and affiliated companies | Nov. 1975 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-02-15 | File - [North Vancouver Island old growth timber and ungulates study: response submission and memoranda] | 1982-1983 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-01 | File - The Vancouver Log Market: Brief to the Select Standing Committee on Forests and LandsBy Canadian Forest Products Ltd. | 1989 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-02 | File - [The Future of Our Forests, A submission to the British Columbia Forest Resources Commission: presentations and submission] | 1990-1991 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-03 | File - [Reforestation : presentations]Presentation by D. E. Rickson to the Western Reforestation Committee of the Western Forestry & Conservation Association Meeting on 3 Dec. 1973 in San Jose, California | 1973, 1983 | | |

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-04 | File - Planning and Forest Practices Guidelines [presentation] | 1977 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-05 | File - [Forest management : presentations] | 1985-1992 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-06 | File - Public Information Session on TFL's [Tree Farm Licenses : presentations] | 1989 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-07 | File - [Environmental Issues and Priorities in Canfor's Forest Operations: presentation script and booklet] | 1989-1990 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-SPVT-01 | Item - Canfor Environmental Issues: Changing Images | 1990 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-08 | File - [Forest stewardship : presentations] | 1992-1994 |
| RBSC-ARC-1866-03-09 | File - Establishing a Forest Land Reserve: The Need for a Designated Working Forest [presentation] Presentation by Douglas E. Rickson to the Truck Loggers Association 1994 Annual Convention | 1994 |